

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 364

By Cooper

A RESOLUTION to honor Dr. David L. Acey, Sr., upon his career and his founding of the Africa In April Cultural Awareness Festival, Inc.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should recognize those citizens who have devoted their careers to improving the quality of life for African Americans and race relations among all people; and

WHEREAS, one such exemplary public servant is David L. Acey, Sr., an assistant professor of African-American Rhetoric and Interracial Communication at the University of Memphis in the Department of Communication; he served as director of African-American Studies at the university from 1979-1985 and designed several Afro-centric courses that are still taught in the department; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Acey has focused on developing strategies to encourage African-American participation in public life and to improve intergroup communication and race relations from a multi-cultural perspective; he firmly believes that an understanding of and appreciation for one's own ethnic traditions and heritage will increase respect for other ethnicities; and

WHEREAS, to these ends, Dr. Acey co-founded and organized the Africa In April Cultural Awareness Festival, Inc., thirty years ago with his wife, Yvonne B. Acey; he currently serves as executive director of the nonprofit organization, which sponsors year-round activities and the Africa In April Cultural Awareness Festival that celebrates the arts, history, culture, and the diversity of the African Diaspora; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Acey is a valuable member of the National African-American Studies Association, the Tennessee Education Association, the National Coalition of 100 Black Men, Inc., the Memphis Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the NAACP; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to accolades for his innovative work, Dr. Acey has received the State of Tennessee's Harold Love Community Service Award, the International Achievement Award from Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Beta Epsilon Omega Chapter, the Memphis and Shelby Links International Trends Award, the Tennessee Education Association's Outstanding Educators Award, the University of Memphis's Lifetime Achievement Award, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity's Community Service Award (The University of Memphis), and the University of Memphis's Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. Human Rights Award; and

WHEREAS, Dr. David L. Acey, Sr., is being honored by his peers on Legacy Sunday, April 30, 2017, and we wish to add our appreciation and approbation of this distinguished educator; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor Dr. David L. Acey, Sr., upon his outstanding career in higher education, commend his humanity and vision in founding the Africa In April Cultural Awareness Festival, Inc., and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.